



# THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture  
Seminole County Extension  
407-665-5550



JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH

## LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Standard grasses, mow when the turf reaches 4 to 4 1/2 inches high. Dwarf varieties, mow when the turf reaches 3 1/2 inches. Do not remove more than 1/3 of the height of the leaf blade with any mowing. Return clippings on the lawn unless excessive.
- **Irrigation:** Apply 3/4 inches of water at each irrigation period. During the winter, grasses only need to be watered once every 10-14 days. During warmer periods, water twice a week. Over watering encourages nutrient leaching, shallow rooting and disease problems.
- **Weed Control:** Apply pre-emergent herbicide such as atrazine in St. Augustine grass around or before February 15. Do not apply herbicides if the turf is under moisture stress or if air temperatures exceed 85 degrees F.
- **Fertilization:** Apply a complete fertilizer, 16-4-8 at the rate of 1 pound nitrogen per 1000 square feet (e.g., 6.25 pounds/1000 sq. feet) during March or two weeks following spring's new growth. At this rate you can make 4 applications of fertilizer/year.

## CITRUS

- **Fertilization:** Apply a citrus special fertilizer in March at the rate determined by the trunk circumference measured in inches at the base. Total inches will equal total pounds of fertilizer per year. If measurement is 12 inches, apply 3 pounds of fertilizer at each of the 4 recommended applications per year in March, May, August, and October. Spread the fertilizer uniformly over the area from about 1 ft. away from the trunk to 3 feet past the "drip line" of the tree.

## WINTER 2010

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Seminole County Extension

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### November 1, 2009 -March 14, 2010

Seminole County water Conservation Ordinance #2009-24 states residential homeowners may only irrigate

#### one day per week

- If your house is odd # only on Saturday
- If your house is even# only on Sunday
- Commercial irrigation only on Tuesday
- **No watering** between 10:00am-4:00pm
- Limited to no more than 3/4in. per zone
- Limited to one hour per zone

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IFAS ~ EXTENSION

<http://solutionforyourlife.com>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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(Continued from pg 1)

- **Irrigation:** Water once weekly or when trees show any wilting to avoid stressing the plants, especially when expecting low temperatures.
- **Weed control:** Citrus should be kept free of weeds and never mulched. Keep the weeds away from young trees 3 ft. around the trunk; for older trees, keep weeds out of the area under the canopy of the tree. Use only herbicides with no soil activity.
- **Pruning:** Prune only to remove diseased or cold damaged branches, during the months of March through June. Dooryard citrus usually do not need any pruning.

#### PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized three times per year and in deep sandy soils up to six times per year. Use a special slow release palm fertilizer such as 8-2-12- 4Mg. Use 12 pounds of fertilizer per 1000 square feet 3 times a year. If nutritional deficiencies of a particular nutrient are visible, additional applications of that nutrient may be necessary to correct the problem.
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date palms should not be irrigated once established.
- **Pruning:** Old dead leaves should be removed by cutting them from the underside to avoid tearing the fibers of the palm's stem. Do not remove green or slightly spotted leaves, palms need all the available green photosynthetic area to produce food.

\*\*\* **Note:** *When palms are close to other landscape plants and lawn, use a palm fertilizer to fertilize all plants within 50 feet of the palms. Fertilizers with high nitrogen to potassium ratio will result in a severe to lethal potassium and magnesium Deficiencies. This does not apply to sable and cabbage palms*

## Winter Vegetables & Herbs

**VEGETABLES** – Beets, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Horseradish, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Peas, Radishes, Spinach, Swiss chard and Turnips.

**HERBS** - Anise, Basil, Bay, Chives, Cilantro, Coriander, Dill, Fennel, Lavender, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Sweet marjoram, Thyme and Watercress.

**FLOWERS** – Alyssum, Baby's breath, Begonia, Bush daisy, Calendula, Candytuft, Carnation, Chrysanthemums, Delphinium, Dianthus, Dusty miller, Foxglove,



## FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn)

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Right Plant, Right Place | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. <b>Water Efficiently</b> | 7. Recycle                       |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately  | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff      |
| 4. Mulch                    | 9. Protect the Waterfront        |
| 5. Attract Wildlife         |                                  |

The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program educates the public on Florida Friendly Landscaping™ 9 Principles that can help you create and maintain beautiful landscapes, lawns and gardens. The second of the 9 Principles is “Water Efficiently” and in March of 2009 the St. Johns River Water Management District adopted more stringent watering restrictions to ensure the efficient use of water for lawn and landscape irrigation. A very important way to help meet Florida's water supply needs for today and the future is through conservation. Lawn and landscape irrigation often accounts for more than half of residential water use. Be sure to change your irrigation timer to one day a week according to your address. If you do not have an irrigation system be sure to know your days! Your lawn is an important investment and decreasing watering during the dormancy months, when your grass is not growing is a great way to reduce water usage, decrease your water bill, protect the environment and reduce runoff from your yard. Watering wisely promotes healthier lawns and landscapes and conserves Florida's precious water resources.

Because lawns need significantly less water in Florida's winter months, landscape irrigation is limited to one day a week on the following schedule when Eastern Standard Time is in effect:

- **Saturday at addresses that end in an odd number or have no address**
- **Sunday at addresses that end in an even number**
- **Tuesday for nonresidential landscape irrigation**
- **No irrigation allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

In addition, irrigation is limited to 3/4 inch of water per irrigation zone and to no more than one hour per irrigation zone.

When daylight saving time returns on March 14, 2010, landscape irrigation will return to the two-day-a-week schedule.

The restrictions apply to water withdrawn from ground or surface water, from a private well or pump, or from a public or private water utility, but they do not apply to irrigation using reclaimed water or storm water.

To schedule a FYN program for your Homeowner Association or organization, or learn more contact Gabrielle Milch, FYN Coordinator, at 407 665-5575 or [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov). Check out the websites [www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn) and [www.FloridaYards.org](http://www.FloridaYards.org)



We will help with your gardening and landscape questions.

Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
& 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
407-665-5550

A word about "organic" pesticides  
Beware...just because a pesticide is labeled as "organic" (which usually means it is derived from a plant) does not mean that it is not toxic. Organically derived pesticides (like nicotine sulfate, rotenone, sabadilla, etc.) usually breaks down quickly in the environment, but can be toxic to bees, fish and mammals (including humans).

#### Environment-friendly spray

1 gallon water  
2 tbsp dish soap  
(without degreasers)  
2 tbsp vegetable oil

Make sure the plant is not stressed from lack of water; if so, water it thoroughly before spraying. Spray in the cooler part of the day. Thorough coverage of the plant is important.

#### Homemade Fungicide

1 gallon of water  
4 teaspoons of baking soda  
1 oz. horticulture oil

Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) in combination with horticultural oils has been shown to control powdery mildew and black spot on roses. Spray weekly to prevent disease.

*\*test products on a small portion of the plant; wait a day or two: inspect the plant for damage before spraying the entire plant.*

## "Ask A Master Gardener"

Q. What should I be doing this winter to prepare my warm season vegetable garden?

A. Plan, plan, plan! Now is the time to review Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide SP 103 by J.M. Stephens, available free at the Seminole County Extension Service or on line at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>. Choose your crops and varieties, order your seeds and supplies, acquire all the organic matter that you can round up, check the water supply and irrigation, lay out the plots - just to name a few things you should be doing before planting dates arrive. If this will be your first warm season vegetable garden, start small.

Q. How do I get started in organic vegetable gardening?

A. Put Organic Vegetable Gardening CIR375 by J.M. Stephens on your winter reading list, available free at the Seminole County Extension Service or <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh019>.

Q. How do I get started in minigardening (containers and raised beds)?

A. A great starting point is Minigardening (Growing, Vegetables in Containers) HS708 by J.M. Stephens available free at the Seminole County Extension Service or <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/VH/VH03200.pdf>. Raised beds are treated as a variation on containers in general.

\*Note: specific Internet addresses of documents are subject to change without notice, but were accurate at printing time.

#### A Green Tip

Here are some handy ways for Christmas trees to keep on giving after the holidays.

- **Shelter your plants**— Cut off limbs and place them in your garden to help protect plants from cold temps. And wind. Needles will eventually fall off and provide nutrients to the soil.
- **Feed the birds**— Keep the tree in its stand and move it outdoors where it can provide food and shelter for wild birds.
- **Sink it**— If you have a large pond, sink the tree in it to provide habitat for fish and aquatic insects.
- **Compost or chip it**— Break off branches and throw them in your compost pile: or allow them to dry before running them through your chipper/shredder to create compost or mulch.





## THE TEACHING GARDENS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY

To educate and to encourage the practice of urban horticulture

*Free and open to the public during regular business hours. For more information, to request a speaker, or arrange group visits, contact the garden coordinator.*

### **Extension Office Garden** • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

Three garden areas showcasing plants suitable for varied sunlight and water conditions, and a butterfly garden.

Coordinator: Jim Bourg, jwbourg@gmail.com

### **Student Museum Gardens** • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

A delightful collection of 13 gardens in the Historic District of Sanford for K-12 students of Seminole County and the community.

Coordinator: Dave Grace, dcgrace01@aol.com

### **Waterwise FY&N Garden** • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods plant selection, irrigation system, and mulching encompasses the 9 Florida Friendly Landscape™ Principles.

Coordinator: Gabrielle Milch, fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

## Seminole County Master Gardener Expo

November 6, 2010

All Day Gardening Experience

Red Bug Lake Park, Casselberry, FL 32707

Keep this marked on your calendar! Updates will be available in future issues.

### **Pest Alert:** A NEW DISEASE OF BASIL IN FLORIDA

Downy mildew of basil, caused by *Peronospora belbahrii*, is a new destructive disease that was first detected on basil in south Florida in 2007 and is expected to become widespread eventually in the whole State. Symptoms of downy mildew initially appear as yellowing of basil leaves that can look like a nutritional problem, but on visual inspection, the underside of the leaves may show a gray, fuzzy growth of the fungus. Under high humidity, the chlorotic areas on the leaf turn to dark brown quickly and die. Under a microscope, the reproductive structures of the pathogen, called sporangia can be easily detected and serve as diagnostic signs for this disease. The fungus can be dispersed in the air long for distances but is commonly introduced to many areas by infected seeds.



**Control:** Reducing the period of leaf wetness by avoiding overhead watering may be helpful. Heavily infected plants should be discarded. Few fungicides are specifically labeled for this disease, but may be useful in managing this disease.







Seminole County Extension

Residential Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd  
Sanford FL 32773

Located across from Flea World,  
17-92 & County Home Road

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Your Community Resource For  
Gardening and Landscaping  
Information  
— — — — —

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/  
Coopext/

Cooperative Extension Services  
Seminole County Office

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB  
Free quarterly  
Newsletter

To receive by email  
AFerrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

## EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

January 16, 2010  
8:00pm - 5:00pm

Environmental Landscapes  
950 Calabria Dr. Altomonte Springs  
RSVP by the 13th of January  
407-665-5575 Free!!!  
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

February 11, 2010  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

FYN Principles for residents  
RSVP 407-665-5575 Free!!!  
1101 E. 1st St. Sem. County Commission Chamber  
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

February 13, 2010  
9:00am - 12:00pm

Design Your Landscape  
Seminole Ext, Center Auditorium  
RSVP 407-665-5575 Free!!!  
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

March 13, 2010  
9:00am - 12:00pm

Design Your Landscape  
Seminole Ext. Center Auditorium  
250 W. County Home Rd.  
RSVP 407-665-5575 Free!!!  
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

March 14, 2010  
10:00am - 4:00pm

Sweetwater Garden Fair  
Wekiva Springs Rd & Fox Valley Dr.  
Guest Speakers Vendors  
Free!!! Fun!!!  
More info 407-880-8758  
info www.swogc.info

### **Newsletter Contributors:**

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**Seminole County:**  
**USDA Hardiness**  
**Zone 9b**  
**Amer.Hort.Soc.**  
**Heat Zone 10**

## HORTICULTURAL SERVICES

- **Horticultural Agent** Dr. Al Ferrer
- **Soil Testing** Mon. & Thurs.,  
9:00am. - 12:00pm
- **Plant Clinic** Mon.- Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm  
Bring in a sample
- **"Ask A Master Gardener"** Call 407-665-5550  
**Phone Service** Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm
- Speakers, Workshops, Special events
- Free publications on many lawn and garden topics

